

**MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
DETERMINATION OF ELIGIBILITY FORM**

NR Eligible: yes ☐
no ☐

Property Name: Fairgo Inventory Number: AL-VI-A-140

Address: 11490 Moss Avenue Extended Historic district: ☐ yes ☒ no

City: Cumberland Zip Code: 21501 County: Allegany

USGS Quadrangle(s): Cresaptown

Property Owner: County Commissioners of Allegany County Tax Account ID Number: N/A

Tax Map Parcel Number(s): N/A Tax Map Number: N/A

Project: The "Rock" Allegany County Motor Sports Study Agency: Allegany County / MD Stadium Authority

Agency Prepared By: A.D. Marble & Company

Preparer's Name: Barbara Frederick/Emma Young Date Prepared: 11/22/2006

Documentation is presented in: Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form, AL-VI-A-140, on file at the Maryland Historical Trust, Crownsville, Maryland.

Preparer's Eligibility Recommendation: ☐ Eligibility recommended ☒ Eligibility not recommended

Criteria: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D Considerations: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

Complete if the property is a contributing or non-contributing resource to a NR district/property:

Name of the District/Property: _____

Inventory Number: _____ Eligible: ☐ yes Listed: ☐ yes

Site visit by MHT Staff ☐ yes ☒ no Name: _____ Date: _____

Description of Property and Justification: *(Please attach map and photo)*

Fairgo (presently Allegany County Fairgrounds) was previously documented as part of a county-wide historic sites inventory in 1978 using a Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties (MIHP) Form, which was submitted in 1980. In 2000, 14 years after the County Commissioners of Allegany County purchased the 97.5-acre tract from the Cumberland Fair Association (Association), the County Commissioners entered into a Deed of Preservation Easement for the property with the Maryland Historical Trust. An evaluation of eligibility for listing in the National Register of Historic Places was not provided for Fairgo as part of the documentation for either the 1980 MIHP Form or the 2000 easement.

Property Description:

The 1980 Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties (MIHP) Form provided detailed architectural descriptions of the buildings thus the details are not included herein. The MIHP Form documented the main entrance, northeast entrance, clubhouse, grandstand, a portion of the paddock, one stable, groundskeeper's residence (caretaker's cottage), and two exhibit buildings as extant. Many of the barns and stables associated with the horse racing and livestock shows had already been removed by 1978. Most of the buildings were noted as being in good condition. The MIHP Form failed to note any post-1940 buildings or structures on the

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST REVIEW

Eligibility recommended ☒ Eligibility not recommended ☐

Criteria: ☒ A ☐ B ☒ C ☐ D Considerations: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

MHT Comments: Retains integrity despite alterations/deterioration

Jonathan Sage
Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services

4/15/07

Date

BKuntz
Reviewer, National Register Program

3/20/07
Date

200700556

fairgrounds.

Many changes have occurred to the property since the 1978 survey. Fairgo retains its historic plan/layout and several of the buildings that date from 1924 to 1961. The grandstand remains, although it has been significantly altered by the cladding of the walls in corrugated metal siding, the replacement of the original wooden seats with metal bleachers, and the alteration of the announcer's box. The caretaker's cottage, vacant for over 15 years, remains, although it stands in poor condition due to deterioration caused by neglect. Many of the porch supports have been covered with plywood, and a large portion of the porch balustrade is missing. Plywood boards cover the main entry into the dwelling, and numerous window panes are missing from the sashes. A small portion of the frame paddock and the one-story, connecting section of the main entrance gate, both in poor conditions, are extant. Finally, the clubhouse still stands with good integrity of materials at the exterior except for the later porch steps added at the southwest elevation.

In the early 1980s, the stable and exhibit building were removed due to their deteriorated condition. In 1986 and 1987, high winds blew down the prominent wooden towers at the main entrance, leaving only the connecting, one-story, hipped-roof, entranceway that once joined the large, three-story towers; the one-story main entranceway was removed in October of 2006. The county also removed the smaller, more modest entrance on the northeastern side of the fairgrounds in 2006 (Dorsey 1980; Kamauf 2006).

In addition, many post-1960 buildings have been erected on locations where previous historic buildings once stood. Between 1999 and 2000, two exhibit buildings, a former hay barn, and five dilapidated barns were removed from the northern end of the fairground complex, and baseball fields, a clubhouse, and a four-wheel trailer have recently been added in their stead. In 2001, the county erected a large, metal, multipurpose building measuring approximately 25,000 square feet, in the former location of horse stables. In 2002, an open-air, agricultural pavilion, measuring approximately 18,000 square feet, replaced horse stables that once stood to the southeast of the grandstands (Dorsey 1980; Kamauf 2006).

Historical Narrative:

The following was taken from the Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form, AL-VI-A-140, "Fairgo," on file at the Maryland Historical Trust, Crownsville, Maryland, except where noted.

In 1908, the Cumberland Fair and Agricultural Association was incorporated for "the purpose of improving the breeds of all animals and promoting agriculture and for holding Races and County Fairs" (Dorsey 1980). Agricultural fairs served to enlighten area farmers to new products, techniques, and history. The "Old Fairgrounds" in South Cumberland hosted Allegany County's fairs and races until October 9, 1924 when the fair was moved to a newly constructed site, known as Fairgo. The new site was located just outside of Cumberland below the towering cliffs of Knobley Mountain between the Baltimore & Ohio Railroad and the Potomac River. The large 97.5-acre tract of land featured seven stables, sixteen open-air barns, two exhibit halls, and a caretaker's residence. A large grandstand, clubhouse, jockey house, pavilion, and paddock surrounded the half-mile oval dirt track. The new fairgrounds also boasted a prominent main entrance gate, featuring three-story, wooden towers with peaked, bell cast, hipped roofs that flanked a one-story, rectilinear, hipped-roof entranceway (Dorsey 1980).

Horse racing thrived as a popular sport in the area, and each year, a two-week meet was held during the summer on the race track at Fairgo in conjunction with the Cumberland Fair. The Baltimore & Ohio Railroad offered a service for the hauling of horses to the site during the summer event (Sanborn 1941). Skeet shooting was located in the infield track, and tennis courts were present at the southern ends of the grounds (Kamauf 2006).

The clubhouse was a popular gathering place for Cumberland's elite during the 1930s and 1940s, as the building contained a dining

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST REVIEW

Eligibility recommended _____

Eligibility not recommended _____

Criteria: ___ A ___ B ___ C ___ D Considerations: ___ A ___ B ___ C ___ D ___ E ___ F ___ G

MHT Comments:

Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services

Date

Reviewer, National Register Program

Date

room, betting windows, and a barroom on the second floor. A porch overlooked the racetrack to the north. The original clubhouse burned in 1937, and the present clubhouse was erected in 1938 (Dorsey 1980; Kamauf 2006). The 1941 Sanborn Fire Insurance Map of the Cumberland Fairgrounds (Fairgo) illustrates the oval racetrack, grandstands, clubhouse, caretaker's cottage, pavilion, paddock, five stables and exhibition pens, 13 barns, and two exhibit buildings as being extant.

The fair and the horse races operated in conjunction until the early 1940s. By the late 1930s, horses, motorcycles, and cars operated on the same track (Kamauf 2006). However, by 1950, attendees to the race track at Fairgo, like so many other small horse tracks throughout the United States, began declining (Steigmaier 1976). The last race was held on the Fairgo grounds in September 1961; however, the annual county fair continued operating in this location and still operates at Fairgo today in 2006.

The fairgrounds underwent a period of significant alteration during the 1960s. Horse races ceased on the property in 1961, after which many of the original frame buildings, including the numerous barns that once boarded the horses, were demolished to make way for new pavilions and other such buildings better suited for exhibition and fair purposes. Around 1967, stock and sprint-car racing took to the track where horses once ran. In 1986, the County Commissioners of Allegany County purchased the 97.5-acre tract from the Cumberland Fair Association, Incorporated (Dorsey 1980; Frederick 2006). Subsequently, the county removed many of the original buildings, including the stable and exhibit buildings, to make way for the large multipurpose building and agricultural pavilion. The continued use of the fairgrounds to host the Allegany County fair, as well as many other county-wide events, necessitated the need for the numerous alterations and additions throughout the property since 1986. Subsequently, the fairgrounds includes various modern buildings, including a large multipurpose building, a large agricultural pavilion, and a bathroom and shower facility.

Statement of Significance:

Fairgo is not eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. The property contains many alterations and additions so much so that the fairgrounds no longer conveys the associated period of operations as a fairgrounds and horse track (1924-1961).

The quality of significance in American history, architecture, archeology, engineering, and culture is present in districts, sites, buildings, structures, and objects that possess integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association, and:

- A. that are associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of history; or
- B. that are associated with the lives of significant persons in our past; or
- C. that embody the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction, or that represent the work of a master or that possess high artistic values, or that represent a significant and distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction; or
- D. that have yielded or may be likely to yield information important in prehistory or history.

Fairgo is not eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A. The historic structures on the fairgrounds have suffered from neglect and alteration, including the wide-spread use of replacement materials on those few original buildings and structures still present on the grounds, including the grandstands, caretaker's cottage, former paddock (now bathroom and shower facility) and clubhouse. In addition, many of the buildings related to racing (jockey house, hay barns, four horse barns, and restrooms) and agriculture (six exhibition barns and two exhibit buildings) have been removed. The modern agricultural pavilion stands in the stead of three former barns and two new pavilions have replaced the six former exhibit barns that once stood to the north of the dirt track. Though some building alterations are expected due to the utilitarian nature of the facility, such changes have impacted the small percentage of historic building fabric on the property and reduced the physical characteristics of

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST REVIEW

Eligibility recommended _____

Eligibility not recommended _____

Criteria: A B C D Considerations: A B C D E F G

MHT Comments:

Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services

Date

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Date

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Fairgo

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the buildings. Such alterations inhibit the buildings from conveying the heritage of the property as an agricultural fairgrounds and horse track, and therefore, the property is not eligible for the National Register under Criterion A.

The property is not eligible under Criterion B since historic research has resulted in no evidence that the property is associated with the lives of individuals of historical importance.

Fairgo does not contain buildings that possess the architectural distinctiveness necessary to deem them eligible for listing in the National Register under Criterion C. The buildings, as a whole, do not comprise a significant or innovative plan/arrangement. In addition, the most utilized and highly visible structures on the property were constructed in the early 2000s. None of the buildings represent a type, method, or period of construction. Furthermore, none of the buildings typify the work of a master or possess high artistic value.

The property was not evaluated under Criterion D as part of the current investigation.

Integrity:

Fairgo was evaluated within the context of other fairgrounds in Maryland and was found to retain less integrity than other eligible examples including the Charles County Fairgrounds (CH-559) and the Washington County Agricultural and Mechanical Association Fairgrounds (WA-HAG-184).

Fairgo retains its historic plan/layout and therefore possesses integrity of location. The property still hosts the county fair and other such functions, and therefore, retains integrity of association and feeling as a fairground. However, the majority of the historic buildings, including the stables, barn, and exhibit halls, are no longer extant per evidence from the 1941 Sanborn Fire Insurance Map. The main and secondary entrance gates were removed in 2006. In addition, those historic buildings and structures still present, including the grandstand and caretaker's cottage, have either undergone significant alterations, such as replacement siding and roofing materials, or stand in disrepair due to neglect. The loss of historic buildings on the property, as well as the use of replacement materials, compromises the property's integrity of setting, design, and workmanship. The lack of integrity of materials, design, workmanship, and setting inhibit property's ability to convey the historic period of operation as a fairgrounds and horse tract (192-1961). Therefore, Fairgo does not retain sufficient integrity from the period of significance (1924-1961) to deem it eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.

References:

Dorsey, David A.

1980 Fairgo, Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form. On file at the Maryland Historical Trust: Crownsville, Maryland.

Kamauf, Kevin.

2006 Interview with Barbara Frederick. Notes in author's file, A.D. Marble & Company: Camp Hill, Pennsylvania, March.

Maryland Historical Trust

2000 Standards and Guidelines for Architectural and Historical Investigations in Maryland. Maryland Historical Trust: Crownsville, Maryland.

Sanborn Map Company

1941 Fire Insurance Maps of Cumberland, Maryland. Sanborn Map Company: New York, New York.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST REVIEW**Eligibility recommended** _____**Eligibility not recommended** _____**Criteria:** A B C D **Considerations:** A B C D E F G**MHT Comments:**_____
Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services_____
Date_____
Reviewer, National Register Program_____
Date

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Fairgo

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Stegmaier Jr., Harry I.

1976 Allegany County: A History. McClain Printing Company: Parsons, West Virginia.

Various Authors.

Allegany County Fairgrounds newspaper clippings. On file at the Frostburg University Library: Frostburg, Maryland.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST REVIEW

Eligibility recommended _____

Eligibility not recommended _____

Criteria: ___ A ___ B ___ C ___ D Considerations: ___ A ___ B ___ C ___ D ___ E ___ F ___ G

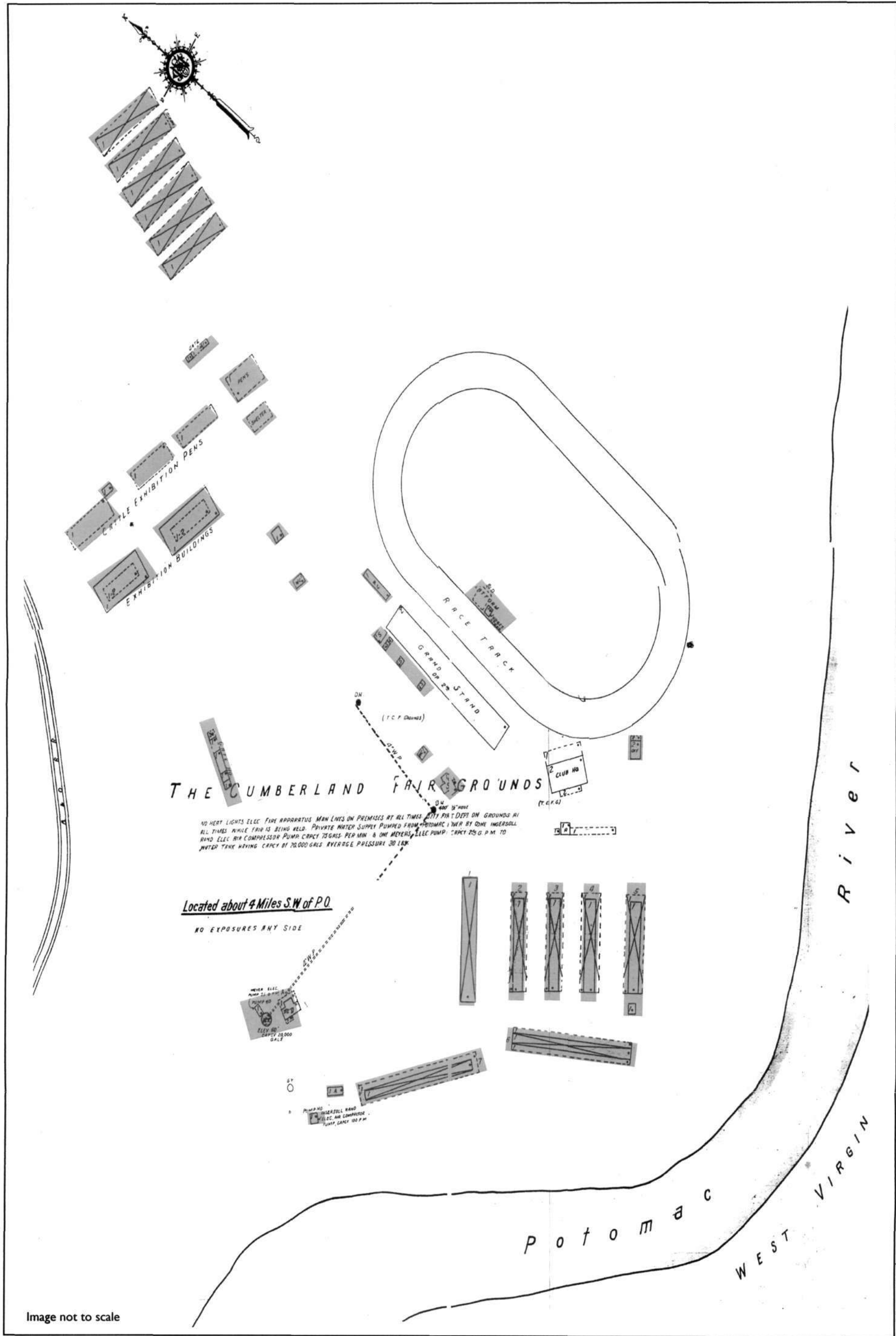
MHT Comments:

Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services

Date

Reviewer, National Register Program

Date



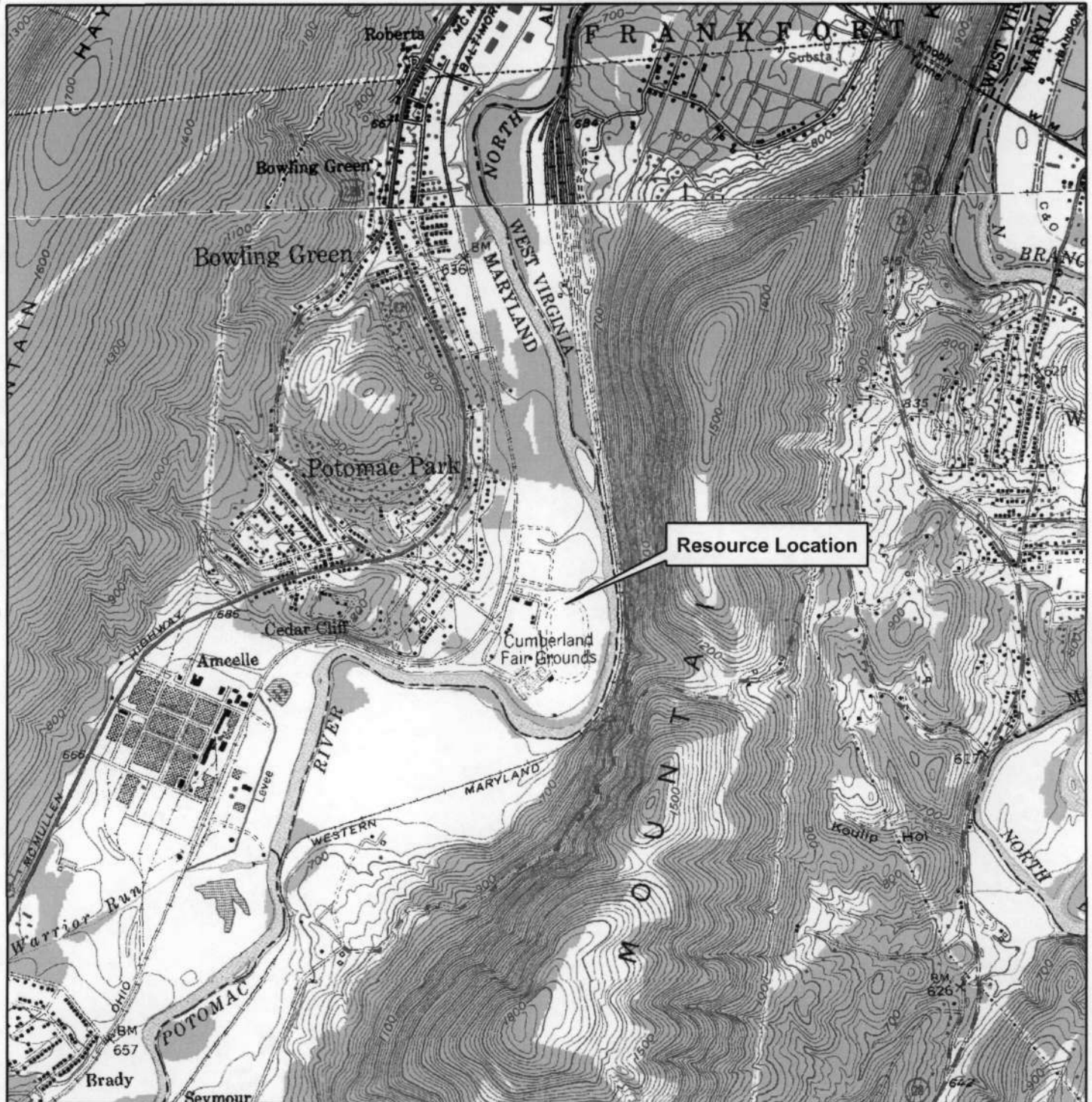
Building No longer
Extant as of November 2006

Fairgo, 1941

AL-VI-A-140

Fairgo AI-VI-A-140

11490 Moss Avenue Extended
Allegany County, Maryland



2,000 0 2,000 Feet



Sources: USGS 7.5' Topographic Quadrangle, Cresaptown



AI-VI-A-140

Faired: main entrance gate (removed October 2006) i grandstand
Allegany County, Maryland

B. Frederick

03.2006

MD SHPO

Main entrance gate (removed October 2006) i west elevation
of grandstands; ^{RETOLIGHT} next to the east

1 of 15



A1-VI-A-140

FAIRGO: main entrance gate (removed October 2006)

Allegheny County, Maryland

B. Frederick.

03.2006

0-4-98336 N-4-98336-0316 U-1

MD SHPO

South & west elevations of main entrance gate - view to
northeast; removed October 2006

RETOUCH3.

2 of 15



AI-VI-A-140

FAIRGO: Northeast entrance (removed)

ALLEGANY COUNTY, MARYLAND

B. Frederick

03, 2006

0-4-98336 N-4-98336-0023 U-1

MD SHPO

South east elevations of northeast entrance (removed zone)
view to northwest

RETOUCH3.

3 of 15



AI-VI-A-140

FAIRSO: FORMER PADDock

Allegany County Maryland

B. Frederick

03.2006

0-4-98336 N-4-98336-0007 U-1

MD SHPO

FORMER PADDock. (converted to shanties); north east
elevations. - view to southwest

#4 of 15

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AI-VI-A-140

FAIRGO - GRANDSTANDS
ALLEGANY COUNTY, MARYLAND
B. FREDERICK

03.2006

MD SHPO

South & east elevations of grandstands - view to northwest

5 of 15

RETOUCH3,



AI-VI-A-140

FAIRGO : GRANDSTANDS

Allegheny County, Maryland

B. Frederick

03.2006

0-4-98336 N-4-98336-0006 U-1

MD SHPO

Grandstands & clubhouse - view to southwest

RETOUCHES.

6 of 15



A1-VI-A-140

FAIRGO: CLUBHOUSE

ALLEGANY COUNTY, MARYLAND

B. Frederick

03, 2006

0-4-98236 N-4-98236-0009 U-1

MD SHPO

CLUBHOUSE: north & east elevations, view to southwest

7 of 15

RETOUCH3.

END



AI-VI-A-140

FAIRBOLD-CLUBHOUSE

ALLEGANY COUNTY, MARYLAND

B. Frederick

03.2006

MD SHPO

0-4-98326 N-4-98326-0003 U-1

North & West elevations of Clubhouse - view to
Southeast

RETOUCH3.

8 of 15

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A1-VI-A-140

TAIRGO: caretaker's cottage

ALLEGANY COUNTY, MARYLAND

B. Frederick

03.2006

0-4-98336 N-4-98336-0013 U-1

MD SHPO

Southwest elevations of caretaker's cottage - view to
northeast

9 of 15

RETOUCH3.



AI-VI-A-140

FAIRGO: CARETAKER'S COTTAGE

ALLEGANY COUNTY, MARYLAND

B. Frederick

03.2006

MDSHPO

0-4-98776 N-4-98336-0012 U-1

South i east elevations of caretaker's cottage-view
to northwest

10 of 15

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AI-VI-A-140

FAIRGO: grandstand, multi-purpose building, caretaker's cottage,
main entrance

ALLEGANY COUNTY, MARYLAND

B. FREDERICK

gate
(removed
october
2006)

03.2006

0-4-05336 N-4-95336-0024 U-1

MD SHPO

view southwest from dirt track to multipurpose building
(modern) & caretaker's cottage
RETOUCH3

11 of 15



AI-VI-A-140

FAIRGO

ALLEGANY COUNTY, MARYLAND

B. Frederick

03.2006

0-4-98336 N-4-98336-0033 U-1

MD SHPO

view southeast of dirt track and Knobley Mountain

#12 of 15

RETOUCH3.

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AI-VI-A-140

FAIRGO-

Allegheny County, Maryland

B. Frederick

03.2006

0-1-98336 N-1 68770-2829 U-1

MD SHPO

view to southwest - note agricultural pavilion,
multipurpose buildings (modern) + caretaker's
cottage

13 of 15



AJ-VI-A-140

FAIRGO

ALLEGANY COUNTY, MARYLAND

B. Frederick).

03.2006

MD SHPO

west elevations of grandstands, multipurpose building,
i caretakers cottage - view to east

A of 15

RETOUCH3,

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A1-VI-A-140

FAIRGO

ALLEGANY COUNTY, MARYLAND

B. Frederick.

03.2006

MD SHPO

view to south - note agricultural pavilion in multi-purpose
building (modern) in ~~former~~ location of stables

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Fairgo
AL-~~V-1~~-A-140
VI

In 1924 a large tract of land along the Potomac River was transformed into a beautiful fairground beneath the towering cliffs of Knobley Mountain. Seven stables, sixteen open-air barns, two exhibit halls and a caretakers residence were built on the fairgrounds. A large grandstand, a clubhouse, a jockey house, a pavillion at the finish line, and a paddock were erected around the half-mile oval track. Races were run at the track until September 1961. The annual county fair is still held at Fairgo.

Most of the frame buildings are in good condition. One of the more interesting structures is the main entrance, a small building flanked by two, three stage towers with peaked bellcast hip roofs. Many of the barns and stables have been removed.

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Fairgo

AND/OR COMMON

Cumberland Fairgrounds

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

Moss Avenue, Potomac Park

Sixth

CITY, TOWN

Cumberland

VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY

Allegany

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

☐ DISTRICT
☒ BUILDING(S)
☐ STRUCTURE
☐ SITE
☐ OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

☐ PUBLIC
☒ PRIVATE
☐ BOTH

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

☐ IN PROCESS
☐ BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

☒ OCCUPIED
☐ UNOCCUPIED
☐ WORK IN PROGRESS
ACCESSIBLE
☒ YES: RESTRICTED
☐ YES: UNRESTRICTED
☐ NO

PRESENT USE

☐ AGRICULTURE ☐ MUSEUM
☐ COMMERCIAL ☐ PARK
☒ EDUCATIONAL ☐ PRIVATE RESIDENCE
☐ ENTERTAINMENT ☐ RELIGIOUS
☐ GOVERNMENT ☐ SCIENTIFIC
☐ INDUSTRIAL ☐ TRANSPORTATION
☐ MILITARY ☐ OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Cumberland Fair Association, Inc.

Telephone #: 777-0911

STREET & NUMBER

27 Pershing Street

CITY, TOWN

Cumberland

VICINITY OF

STATE zip code
Maryland 21502**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Allegany County Courthouse

Liber #: 145
Folio #: 522

STREET & NUMBER

30 Washington Street

CITY, TOWN

Cumberland

STATE
Maryland 21502**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

DATE

☐ FEDERAL ☐ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☐ LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

AL-VI-A-140

CONDITION

☐ EXCELLENT
☐ GOOD
☒ FAIR

☐ DETERIORATED
☐ RUINS
☐ UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

☒ UNALTERED
☐ ALTERED

CHECK ONE

☒ ORIGINAL SITE
☐ MOVED DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Cumberland Fairgrounds are located in Potomac Park between the B and O Railroad and the Potomac River.

The main entrance to the fairgrounds is a gatehouse with wooden towers on either side. The one story, seven bays wide gatehouse is frame with german siding resting on a low cement foundation. The hipped gable flank roof, with eaves consisting of a fascia and rafter ends, has an octagonal copula with a peaked roof. Entrances and casement windows are pedimented. The main entrance in the center of the western facade is recessed with a columned gabled portico. Picket fences connect the identical towers to the gatehouse. The square three stage wooden towers are frame with german siding. Entrances have simple hoods and windows are pedimented. Semicircular openings on the third stage are boarded up. Capped pilasters in pairs are located in the corners of the third stage. Eaves consist of rafter ends. Peaked bellcast roofs with finials are covered with asphalt shingles.

A smaller entrance on the northern side of the fairgrounds consists of two square frame ticket booths which share a common hipped gable roof serving as an entrance.

The clubhouse consists of a rectangular, two story, six bays wide frame structure with german siding resting on a low cement foundation. The gabled roof has been flatened. Eaves consist of rafter ends on the flanks and cornice and soffit on the ends. Movable panels on the northeast open the interior to a shed roofed porch on trackside. Pedimented six over six light sash windows have wooden lugsills.

Most of the paddock has been removed. What remains is a small rectangular frame structure with a shed roof and a row of betting windows on the northeast. A large pavillion has been added to the northeast.

The grandstand is a long rectangular frame structure with german siding. The gabled roof is supported by bracketed wooden posts. Box seats are located in the center of the stands. A press box on the roof of the grandstand was added in the late 1930's.

(cont.)

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

8 SIGNIFICANCE

AL-VI-A-140

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1923-1924

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Cumberland Fair and Agricultural Association was incorporated in 1908 "for the purpose of improving the breeds of all animals and promoting agriculture and for holding Races and County Fairs." (1) Fairs and races were held at the "old fairgrounds" in South Cumberland until 1924 when the new fairgrounds at Potomac Park, known as Fairgo, were opened. (2) A large tract of land along the Potomac River was transformed into a beautiful fairground beneath the towering cliffs of Knobley Mountain. Seven stables, sixteen open-air barns, two exhibit halls, and a caretaker's residence were built on the fairgrounds. A large grandstand, a clubhouse, a jockey house, a pavillion at the finish line, and a paddock were erected around the half-mile oval-track. Other sports provided for were skeet shooting and tennis courts. (3)

The clubhouse was a popular gathering place for the wealthy. It contained a dining room, betting windows, and a barroom on the second floor. Panels of the trackside wall of the barroom opened onto the awning covered porch so the races could be viewed from inside. (4) Races were restricted to a two week meet held "in conjunction with the Cumberland Fair." (5) The limited schedule eventually caused the discontinuance of the races:

... small race tracks were dying throughtout the United States by the 1950's, and Fairgo proved no exception. In September 1961, a county tradition ended when the last races were run at the local track. Cumberland's racing dates were sold the next summer to other tracks when it became apparent that few horse owners wanted to make the long trek to Fairgo for a short meet. (6)

(cont.)

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Stegmaier, Harry Jr. et al Allegany County- A History Parsons W Va. McClain
 Printing Co, 1976
 Allegany County Certificate of Incorporation

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 96 acres

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE

COUNTY

STATE

COUNTY

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

David A. Dorsey, Historic Sites Coordinator

ORGANIZATION

Allegany County Historic Sites

DATE

January 2, 1980

STREET & NUMBER

3 Pershing Street

TELEPHONE

777-5944

CITY OR TOWN

Cumberland

STATE

Maryland 21502

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust
 The Shaw House, 21 State Circle
 Annapolis, Maryland 21401
 (301) 267-1438

A variety of exhibition halls, barns, and stables are located throughout the fairgrounds. One remaining stable for racing horses is a long rectangular structure of vertical planks with a gabled roof. The roof is extended on the northwest and supported by wooden posts. Two exhibition halls are rectangular frame buildings with german siding. Low hipped roofs have one story monitors with hipped gable roofs. Windows are six light casements. Double entrances have shed roofed porches. Five livestock barns are open pavillions with gabled roofs supported by bracketed posts.

The Groundskeeper's Residence consists of a one and one-half story, seven bays wide, "T" shaped frame structure with german siding. It rests on a high cement block foundation with a plain water table. The steep hipped gable roof is covered with asphalt shingles. Eaves consist of a cornice, soffit, and frieze. Wall features include cornerboards. A brick chimney in the center of the building has a corbeled cap.

The pedimented main entrance, in the center of the northeastern facade, includes a two panel, four light door with original hardware. Two other pedimented entrances on the ends of the northeastern facade, are located on the recessed umbrage porch. Windows are nailed, pedimented six over one lights with wooden lugsills. Four pedimented windows on the first floor are wide eight over one lights with wooden lugsills. A porch on the northeast is umbrage on the southeast and northwest and has a hipped roof supported by square wooden posts. A shed roofed porch is on the southwest.

(Significance cont.)

The annual county fair held at Fairgo since 1924 includes livestock competitions and various exhibits. Sideshows, rides, and games housed in tents line the midway late in the summer.

Most of the frame buildings at the fairgrounds are in good condition. One of the more interesting structures is the main entrance, a small building flanked by two, three stage towers with peaked bellcast hip roofs. Many of the barns and stables have been removed.

- (1) Allegany County Certificate of Incorporation Liber 5, Folio 67
- (2) Harry I. Stegmaier, Jr. et al. Allegany County, A History (Parsons W.Va. McClain Printing Co.) p. 342
- (3) Interview with Mrs. Margaret McKenzie, Fairgo, 10-3-78
- (4) Ibid
- (5) Stegmaier et al. p. 342 and P426
- (6) Ibid, p. 426

INVENTORY NO: 503DATE: 10/3

AL-VI-A-140

REMODELING: Drastic, moderate, minor

NAME OF PROPERTY: Cumberland FairgroundsLOCATION OF PROPERTY: EntranceDIRECTION DWELLING FACES: 320° NWNAME OF OWNER: Bill or PaulADDRESS: McKenzie27 Pershing St Cumb

STORIES: 1() 2() 3() 4() 5() 6() BAYS: 1() 2() 3() 4() 5() 6() 7() ()

WINGS, ADDITIONS: two towers & entrance bldg.DWELLING SHAPE: (square, cross, rectangular) + sq. towers

WALL CONSTRUCTION:

- german siding
- (☒) FRAME: Bevel, clapboard, weatherboard, wood shingles, board & batten (type?)
 () BRICK: Bond type - common, English, Flemish. Sketch variants.
 () STONE: Bond type - rubble, ashlar (random or regular), quoins-plain, rusticated
 () LOG
 () OTHER: Coverings

WALL FEATURES: Belt Course, Pilasters, Others

FOUNDATIONS: High, Low, Brick, Stone CementWATER TABLE: None, Plain, Beveled, Moulded BrickWINDOWS, TRIM, SHUTTERS: 1/1() 2/2() 6/6() 9/6() 9/9() other()
 pegged() nailed() wide() narrow() mitred() pediment()

ENTRANCE, DOORS:

LOCATION: recessed center NW wide w/ 3 panels boarded up
 HARDWARE: original() replaced()
 FAN LIGHT, TRANSOM, SIDE LIGHTS, PLAIN SE3 panel 3 light door
 Paneled, Vertical, Horizontal Boards

CORNICE, BARGE, EAVES: (crown, fascia, soffit, bed)

original() replaced() rafter ends, modillions, dentils, frieze, architraveROOF: Gable front, Hipped, Gable flank, Hip, Shed, Mansard, Gambrel, Flat, Dormers #MATERIAL: wood shingles, slate, paper asphalt; original() replaced()PORCHES: SHAPE OF ROOF - shed() hip() gable() portico Lintel ped, Bed, soffit, fascia

CHIMNEYS: Number: Brick() Stone() Corbeled() original() replaced()

Location: Flush end() Inside end() Outside end() Central() Interior()

ARCHES: Door & Windows: Keystone, Flat, Segmental, Semicircular

COMMENTS:

USE:

SIGNIFICANCE:

DATE CONSTRUCTED: At least 55 yrs old

CONDITION:

Towers identical get siding - on
 wooden posts - cornerboards - entrances
 on NW w/ simple shed hood
 grandstand over low cement found

Octagonal tower out Root w/ bed & needle

on tower - 3 panel 6 light door

1st Floor³ 6 light casement windows

2nd 4 windows no glass

cornice w/ ped led to 3rd floor

3rd - 4 ~~sem~~ loaf shaped semi elliptical arched openings

on corners are doubled capped pilasters

Bell cast pyramidal roof w/ asphalt shingles
& finial. rafter ends¹ exposed

flg holders on corners.

AL-VI-A-140

INVENTORY NO: _____

DATE: 10/3REMODELING: Drastic, moderate, minor

AL-VI-A-140

TYPE OF PROPERTY: Fairgroundskeeper's house

LOCATION OF PROPERTY: _____

DIRECTION DWELLING FACES: NE 40°

NAME OF OWNER: _____

ADDRESS: _____

STORIES: 1 1/2 2() 3() 4() 5() 6() BAYS: 1() 2() 3() 4() 5() 6 7() ()WINGS, ADDITIONS: 1st Floor NE $\frac{3}{1}$ pedimented w/DWELLING SHAPE: (square, cross, rectangular) wood lvs also 3 $\frac{6}{1}$ WALL CONSTRUCTION: german siding2 entrances on sides of main(✓) FRAME: Bevel, clapboard, weatherboard, wood shingles, board & batten (type block)

(✓) BRICK: Bond type - common, English, Flemish. Sketch variants.

() STONE: Bond type - rubble, ashlar (random or regular), quoins-plain, rusticated

() LOG

() OTHER: Coverings

WALL FEATURES: cornerboards
Belt Course, Pilasters, Others entFOUNDATIONS: High, Low, Brick, Stone Cement blockWATER TABLE: None, Plain, Beveled, Moulded BrickWINDOWS, TRIM, SHUTTERS: 1/1 () 2/2 () 6/6 () 9/6 () 9/9 () other (✓) except front
pegged() nailed(✓) wide(✓) narrow() mitred() pediment(✓)ENTRANCE, DOORS: LOCATION: center NE pedimented w/ light 2 panels

HARDWARE: original(✓) replaced()

FAN LIGHT, TRANSOM, SIDE LIGHTS, PLAIN

Paneled, Vertical, Horizontal Boards

CORNICE, BARGE, EAVES: (crown, fascia, soffit, bed) near shed porch
original(✓) replaced() rafter ends, modillions, dentils, frieze, architrave

ROOF: Gable front, Gable flank, Hip, Shed, Mansard, Gambrel, Flat, Dormers #

MATERIAL: wood shingles, slate, tin, asphalt; original() replaced()PORCHES: SHAPE OF ROOF - shed(✓) hip() gable() umbrae - plain balustersCHIMNEYS: Number: 1 Brick(✓) Stone() Corbeled(✓) original(✓) replaced()
Location: Flush end() Inside end() Outside end() Central(✓) Interior()

DOORS: Door & Windows: Keystone, Flat, Segmental, Semicircular

COMMENTS:

USE: _____

SIGNIFICANCE: _____

DATE CONSTRUCTED: _____

Red cross Bldg ~~was~~ behind grandstand removed.

AL-VI-A-140

Pix

grandstand press box added
picture late 30's

circus arrangement in field

tightrope - ^{gone} pavillion at start finish like

white gravel tennis courts

clubhouse is exhibition for VIP's or somebody
important

had awnings and box seats for on track side

of barns - stables were 4 of them - 3 removed

4 long barns - 2 long strings of stables

other barns to north all gone

exhibit halls all remain

to W of house is foundation of water tank
& filtration system - from Potomac River

mrs. Parker's grandson Ike Parker

No Paddock left

used for viewing horses - only white fence left

INVENTORY NO: _____

DATE: _____

REMODELING: Drastic, moderate, minor

AL-VI-A-140

NAME OF PROPERTY: Clubhouse & Barn (on Back)LOCATION OF PROPERTY: swDIRECTION DWELLING FACES: East — trackside

NAME OF OWNER: _____

ADDRESS: _____

STORIES: 1(2) 2() 3() 4() 5() 6() BAYS: 1() 2() 3() 4() 5() 6(✓) 7() ()

WINGS, ADDITIONS: _____

DWELLING SHAPE: (square, cross, rectangular)

WALL CONSTRUCTION: German siding

- (✓) FRAME: Bevel, clapboard, weatherboard, wood shingles, board & batten (type?)
() BRICK: Bond type - common, English, Flemish. Sketch variants.
() STONE: Bond type - rubble, ashlar (random or regular), quoins-plain, rusticated
() LOG
() OTHER: Coverings

WALL FEATURES: Belt Course, Pilasters, Others _____

FOUNDATIONS: High, Low, Brick, Stone CementWATER TABLE: None, Plain, Beveled, Moulded BrickWINDOWS, TRIM, SHUTTERS: 1/1() 2/2() 6/6(✓) 9/6() 9/9() other()
pegged() nailed(✓) wide(✓) narrow() mitred() pediment(✓)ENTRANCE, DOORS: LOCATION: on W double 6 lights 2 panel ea. dining
HARDWARE: original() replaced()
FAN LIGHT, TRANSOM, SIDE LIGHTS, PLAIN Betting & bar room
Paneled, Vertical, Horizontal BoardsCORNICE, BARGE, EAVES: (crown, fascia, soffit, bed)
original(✓) replaced() rafter ends, modillions, dentils, frieze, architraveROOF: Gable front, Gable flank, Hip, Shed, Mansard, Gambrel, Flat, Dormers # _____MATERIAL: wood shingles, slate, tin, asphalt; original() replaced()PORCHES: SHAPE OF ROOF - shed(✓) hip() gable() on E for viewing seatsCHIMNEYS: Number: 1 Brick() Stone() Corbeled() original() replaced()
Location: Flush end() Inside end() Outside end() Central() Interior()

DOORS: Door & Windows: Keystone, Flat, Segmental, Semicircular

COMMENTS: semicircular louvered ventilator on

USE: _____

SIGNIFICANCE: _____

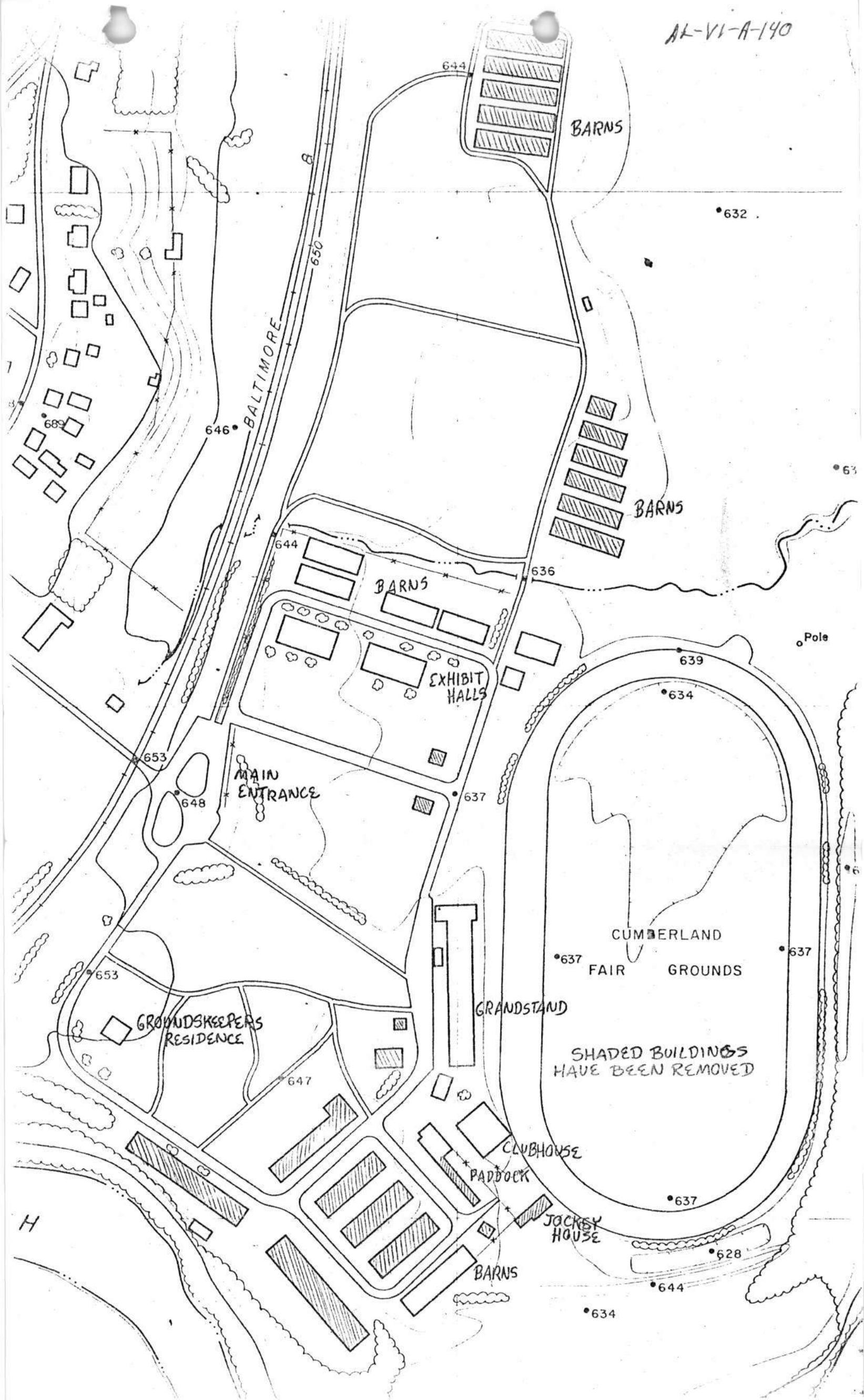
DATE CONSTRUCTED: _____

Barns exhibits halls & ^{Back} entrance

Double 6 light casements

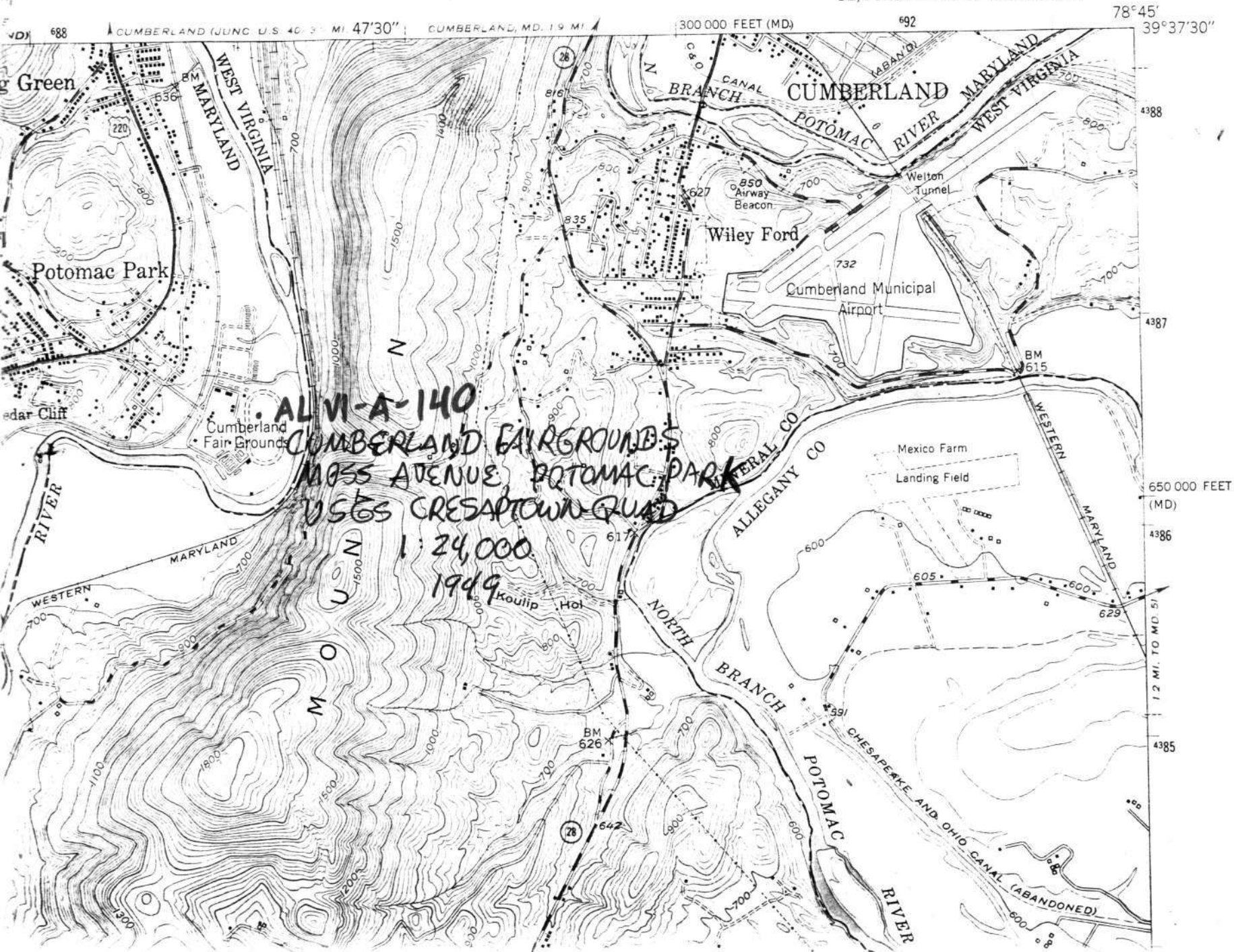
low hip roofs w/ Monitors - ^{hipped} gabled roof

AL-VI-A-140



CRESAPTOWN QUADRANGLE
WEST VIRGINIA-MARYLAND
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SE/4 FROSTBURG 15 QUADRANGLE

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EVITTS CRE





AL-VI-A-140

CUMBERLAND FAIRGROUNDS

MAIN ENTRANCE

MOSS AVENUE POTOMAC PARK

DAVID A. DORSEY

10/3/78

EAST



AL-VI-A-140
CUMBERLAND FAIRGROUNDS

MASS AVENUE POTOMAC PARK

GRAND STAND

photo of old photo taken

ca. 1925

David A. Dorsey

10/3/78



AL-VI-A-140

Cumberland Fairgrounds
copy of old aerial photo taken to south
Moss Ave. Potomac Park ^{ca. 1925}

10/3/78

David A. Dorsey



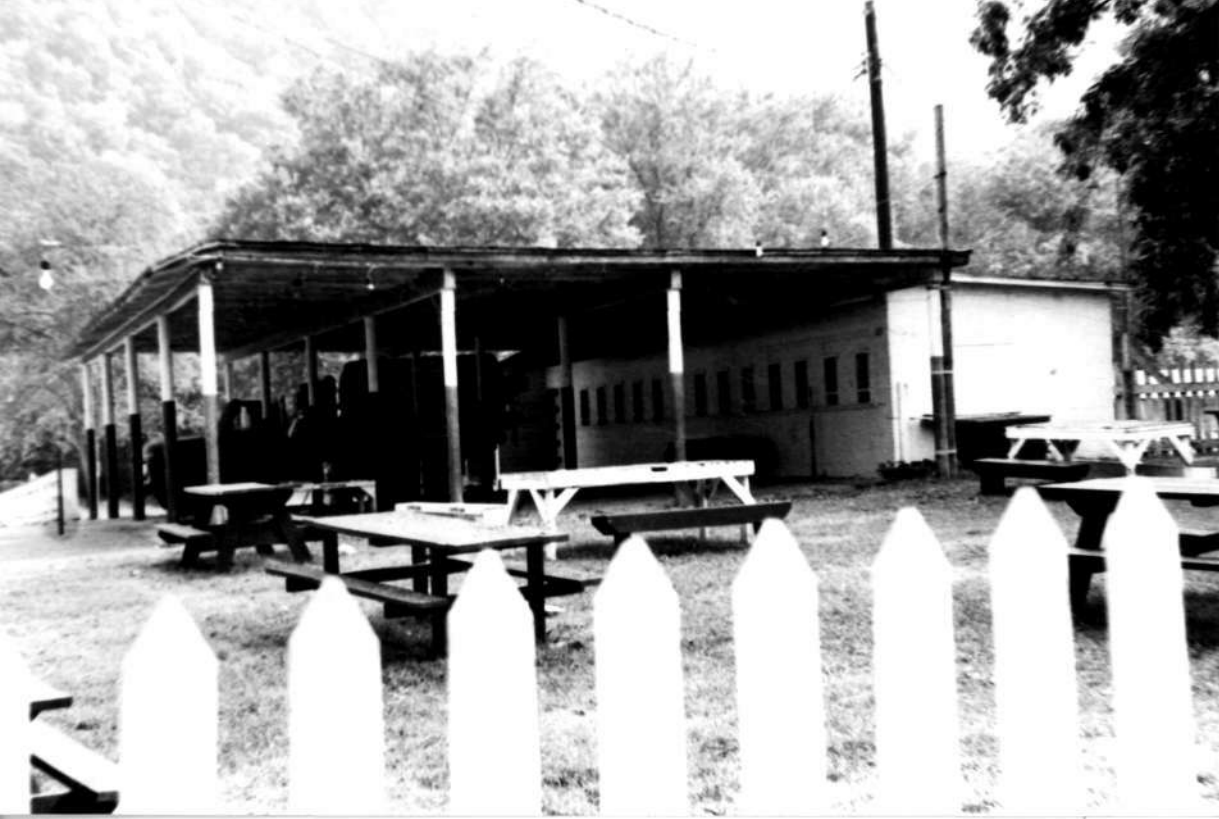
AL-VI-A-140

Cumberland Fairgrounds
COPY OF OLD AERIAL PHOTO
To the east ca. 1925

Moss Ave. Potomac Park

DAVID A. Dorsey

10/3/78



AL-VI-A-140

Cumberland Fairgrounds
Paddock

Moss Ave. Potomac Park

David A. Dorsey

9/24/79

Southeast



AZ- VI- A- 140

CUMBERLAND FAIRGROUNDS
MAIN ENTRANCE
MOSS AVENUE, POTOMAC PARK

DAVID A. DORSEY

12 / 3 / 78

Southwest



AL-VI-A-140

CUMBERLAND FAIRGROUNDS
GRANDSTANDS
MOSS AVENUE POTOMAC PARK

DAVID A. Dorsey

10/3/78

EAST



A2-UI-A-140

CUMBERLAND FAIRGROUNDS
BARN

MOSS AVENUE, POTOMAC PARK

DAVID A. DORSEY

10/3/78

Northeast



AZ-UI-A-140

CUMBERLAND FAIRGROUNDS
GRANDSTANDS

MOSS AVENUE POTOMAC PARK

DAVID A. DORSEY

10/3/78

WEST



QL-VI-A-140

Cumberland Fairgrounds

EXHIBIT HALLS

Moss Ave. Potomac Park

David A. Dorsey

10/3/78

EAST



AZ-VI-A-140

CUMBERLAND FAIRGROUNDS

CLUBHOUSE

MOSS AVENUE TOTOMAC PARK

DAVID A. DORSEY

10/3/78

EAST



AL-VI-A-140

Cumberland Fairgrounds

CLUBHOUSE

Moss Ave. Potomac Park

David A. Dorsey

10/3/78

~~EAST~~ WEST



AL-VI-A-140

CUMBERLAND FAIRGROUNDS
GROUNDSKEEPERS HOUSE
MOSS AVENUE POTOMAC PARK
DAVID A. DORSEY

10/3/78

SOUTH



AL- VI- A- 140

Cumberland Fairgrounds

GROUNDS KEEPERS HOUSE

Moss Ave. Potomac Park

David A. Dorsey

10/3/78

NORTH



AL-VI-A-140

Cumberland Fairgrounds

Exhibit Halls

Moss Ave. Potomac Park

David A. Dorsey

10/3/78

Northwest



AL-UI-A-140

CUMBERLAND FAIRGROUNDS
STABLES

MOSS AVENUE POTOMAC PARK

DAVID A - DORSEY

10/3/78

Southeast



AZ. VI - A - 140

CUMBERLAND FAIRGROUNDS
N. ENTRANCE AND BARN
MOSS AVENUE POTOMAC PARK

DAVID A. DORSEY

Q / 24 / 79

NORTH